

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated 26 July 2004 and follows the in-person interview involving Examiner Bena Miller and Applicant's attorney, L. Grant Foster, on 26 October 2004. Claims 2 and 25-27 have been canceled. Claims 1, 12, and 24 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1 and 2-24 remain pending in the application.

Section 112 Rejections

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-11 based on a minor informality. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "the housing" instead of "the base" to overcome the noted informality.

Anticipation Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-23, as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,988,469 to Musacchia (the '469 Musacchia patent). As discussed during the recent in-person interview, the device shown in the '469 Musacchia patent is a device for holding a variety of game calls. The '469 Musacchia device is a support device that is separate from the game call and, as such, does not form an integral part of the game call. While the '469 Musacchia device serves to elevate an attached game call from a user's limb, there is no teaching or suggestion in the '469 Musacchia patent of a sound chamber created by a flange extending below the bottom wall of the game call.

As agreed during the recent in-person interview, independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite specifically the "sound chamber" feature of the present invention. Claim 23 has not been amended because, as originally presented, it recites "providing a flange extending below the bottom wall and an aperture formed in the flange to create a sound chamber." Thus, independent claims 1, 12, and 23 (and necessarily their dependent claims) all recite the "sound chamber" limitation, and as

such avoids the prior art of record. As a result of the sound chamber, sounds generated by the game call are allowed to resonate and can be projected toward a particular direction. The claimed sound chamber feature is neither taught nor suggested by the '469 Musacchia patent. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-23 are not anticipated by the '469 Musacchia patent and should be allowable.

Obviousness Rejections

As discussed during the recent interview, Applicant has canceled claims 25-27, without prejudice, to expedite prosecution of the present application.

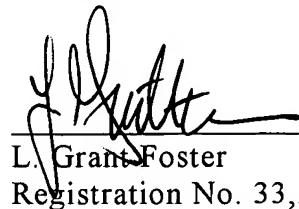
The Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 17 as being unpatentable over the '469 Musacchia patent. Claims 6 and 17 should be allowable for the same reasons that the claims from which they depend (*i.e.*, claims 1 and 12) are now in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 6 and 17 recite that the flange comprises a plurality of apertures "*for directing*" sounds generated by the game call. There is nothing in the '469 patent that teaches or suggests any directing or channeling of sounds toward a particular direction. Thus, the '469 Musacchia patent does not teach or suggest the invention as recited by claims 6 and 17.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 24 has been rewritten in independent form to place it in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests a favorable action on the merits. If there remain any unresolved issues, Applicant requests the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney to expedite the handling of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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